



**CRICKHOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR Y DRE CRUG HYWEL**

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 21 April 2026 at 7pm at Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre.

PRESENT

Cllr P Evans – Chair
Cllr L Baber
Cllr M Clark
Cllr A D'Anna
Cllr D Davies
Cllr S Evans
Cllr J Gruffydd

Cllr M Goodman
Cllr A Jeremiah
Cllr J Leighton
Cllr H Morgans
C Beatty – Clerk
Members of the public

6725: Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Hall

6726: Declarations of Interest

None

6727: Questions from the public

Mrs Orinda Williams asked about the methodology of the contractors preparing options for the upgrade of the QEII park.

The Chair responded that the Town Council had delegated the task of coming up with a set of proposals for what the community would like to the Friends of Jubilee Park. The appointed Park Design consultation team will now come up with some proposals and then consult various user groups. This will be a detailed consultation of what the community would like to see in the Park and would be of a different nature to that of the Place Plan consultations which was seeking a broader field of views on the town's future.

Mr Phil Williams asked whether the Council could be sure of its ability to maintain additional park grounds in the light of the outstanding maintenance required for the Castle Park.

Councillors explained that the castle maintenance was already planned and funding secured but that it could not commence until after the bat surveys, which are due to take place in May and June. A tree survey has also been scheduled for this year.

6728: Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 March 2026

The minutes were approved. The following matters were discussed:

- Councillors all encouraged to give feedback on website if not done so yet

Mayors Initials: 



- The Chair explained that the Post 16 Review letter drafted on behalf of the Five Councils had not been sent due to the delays in the community engagement process. He would add in comments given by other councils ready for when the letter is needed in the future.
- The softpour repairs had been completed. They skip is still on site and the Clean and Green volunteers were encouraged to put in any waste collected during their sessions
- The Council is waiting to hear back on the Town of Culture application. Thanks was given to Cllr Clark for his work on submitting the application
- Hanging baskets – Cllr Jeremiah will chase up with the Business Association
- The finalised Biodiversity Action Plan needs to be uploaded to the website
- The updated Burial Fees were now live on the website.

6729: Quick updates

- **Microsoft Teams:** Issues were occurring for Councillors with multiple O365 accounts. The Clerk will organise a session with an IT specialist for everyone affected to work with him to get it sorted.
- **Llangattock Green Valleys Community Fund:** The Council has secured funding for environmental improvements for QEII Park – planting, improving wildlife habitats etc.
- **The Town Wifi:** no further updates since the last meeting; the car park router is still outstanding.
- **The Town Clock:** The contractor has looked at the clock and believes it may be better to replace than keep fixing it. Replacement costs have been shared with Cllr S Evans and so they will be discussed at the May Full Council meeting.
- **Actions from the Away Day:** Cllrs Leighton and Clark are meeting to draw up an action plan from the Away Day. They have engaged with a couple of interested residents to join the working group to take forward some of the suggestions around signage. It was noted that the work should also link up with the PIPTF project funding application.

6730: County Councillor report

County Cllr Hall had shared a written report. Items of note that Council discussed were:

- Councillors were grateful for the ongoing updates given about the road works on the A40; they noted that coordination with the works in Llangattock to reduce traffic build up would have been good.
- The communication from PCC regarding the A40 changes state that the pedestrian crossing will remain at its present position, despite the Council's efforts to get it moved due to safety concerns.

6731: Discuss planning applications received:

- **26/24456/FUL:** Gwernvale Farm, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1SE - No adverse comments, providing all recommendations in reports are followed.
- **26/24481/FUL:** Gwernvale Cottage, Brecon Road, Crickhowell Powys NP8 1SE - We encourage all forms of wildlife conservation and have no adverse comments.

Mayors Initials: 



- **26/24543/CAC:** Vancouver, Standard Street, Crickhowell Powys NP8 1BP - No adverse comments.
- **26/24454/FUL:** 7 Victoria Terrace, Brecon Road, Crickhowell Powys NP8 1DN - No adverse comments.

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6732: Pride in Place & Transforming Towns funding

Applications have been made for both funding opportunities.

6733: Report from Finance Committee on year end 25/26

The Chair of Finance has circulated a written report. The following items were highlighted:

- The 25-26 budget was well managed and expenditure was as planned. There had been a few extra items of income – more burial fees than expected and a successful insurance claim for the damaged softpour. It was noted that no expenditure under the QEII Park had been made in the 25-26 financial year.

In terms of reserves, there is around £50,000 unallocated going into 26-27. Long term projects that will require reserves are:

A complete toilet refurbishment (estimate £15,000, 2-5 years)

Replacement of play equipment (estimate £10,000, 2-5 years)

Tump improvements (estimate £2500, 1-2 years)

Improved surface for the basketball hoop area.

The Council agreed to move £30,000 from the current account to the savings account which will reduce the funds in the current account and gain interest on those in the savings.

On longer term running costs, Council noted that they need to consider whether the Council has enough of the right kind of staff support, and acknowledged challenges that may arise in relation to the Library and Sports Centre.

ACTION: Clerk move money from savings to current account.

6734: Sports Centre and Library update

Cllr Baber reported on recent meetings with the Sports Centre Working Group. They are looking to form a Community Interest Company - the Crickhowell and District Partnership group has offered that they could be used. New Directors are required as the existing ones wish to step down. If a CIC is set up then it can take over the management of the Sports Centre. The income from the Clubs hire fees of the facilities would cover the salary of a manager. The Sports Centre is due to re-open on 27 April 2026. Thanks were given to High School Governor Bryony Bromley for getting the club timetable sorted.

Next steps include getting the new CIC formalised, hire fees being confirmed, developing a business plan and continued work with the school.

Mayors Initials: 



On the Library, there isn't yet a Working Group set up formally. A lead is needed as the community group will need to dock in with the Library Service and PCC. The Town Council and Percy Davies Trust have both expressed interest in ensuring the library is maintained.

6735: Community Christmas Tree 2026

The Council agreed in January that we would have a tree this year. Council noted that it is a lot of physical work to install it and the electrics are a problem. The Clerk was tasked to ask Matt Perry to push the PCC Lighting Team for their support in getting the electrics fixed.

The Council decided to seek permission for the 2026 Tree to be put on the Cricket Pitch this year – Clerk to speak to Phil Rees.

Cllr Morgans requested permission from the Council to discuss with the Corn Exchange Chair whether an external electrical socket could be added – the Transforming Towns budget could be used to fund the installation.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Cricket Committee if the Council can put the tree on their land again this Christmas.

ACTION: The Clerk was tasked to ask PCC for new bollards by the monument.

6736: Update on contracts and Castle Park improvements

Discussions are ongoing regarding the Park Design contract for QEII Field.

CADW have agreed that the Council could carry forward the grant funding to remove the ivy on the Castle, which has been delayed due to the need for a bat survey in May. The Clerk was tasked to chase up a response on whether the quote is still valid for the castle repairs.

A bench in Castle Park is being refurbished by the family members. The Clerk is in contact with the family.

On the Cemetery improvements, Cllr Davies will ask the contractor for a quote for the New Road Cemetery Wall repairs. The Tree Survey has been approved and the contractors have been chased up for a date.

6737: Date of Annual Meeting and next Away Day

05 May 2026 was agreed for the Annual Meeting, and 16 July for the Away Day, to be held in the Library.

Routine finance

6738: Approve the monthly bank reconciliation

Approved

Mayors Initials



6739: Approve the payment and receipts sheet

Approved

Regular items

6740: Correspondence items of interest

All were encouraged to attend the co-operative housing meeting on 28th April.

6741: Reports of meetings/exchange of information

- Cllrs Goodman and Gruffydd had presented at the One Voice Wales conference and received positive feedback.
- Cllr S Evans has been chasing up the defibrillators and getting one put on the Swan Inn.
- A recent discussion with Powys CC officials suggested that whilst the outline planning permission is now being sought for Upper House Farm, the idea of a car park to be built there is still feasible.
- The High School Governing Body appears to have approved in principle a reduction in school car park access; and a proposal for Year 11 students no longer being allowed into town at lunchtime.

6742: Communications relating to the work of the Council

Bat survey

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9.10 pm.

Signed..........Date: 19.5.26.....